

**Growth Group Discussion Questions**  
**Series: "...And Then Came Jesus"- Part 2"**  
**"Show Down At A Dinner Party"**  
**Week of March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

**Message Summary: A thank you party for Jesus turns into a showdown... Mary's overt love for Jesus Vs Judas Iscariot's growing scorn and hatred for Jesus is on display! How important is "love for Jesus" to us as believers? Very! In fact, in John 12:1-9 we see Jesus protect and defend Mary's demonstration of love for Him. He knew she would need every ounce of her passion and love for Him to help her through the next 9 to 10 days, the time period between the party and the death and resurrection of Jesus. Maybe that's what we need. More awe for the One who walked on the water, turned water into wine, raised Lazarus from the dead and who saved us from the certainty of God's judgement for our sin! And, the same Jesus who gives us access to eternal life! Love is the sustaining power of faithful people that keeps them following Jesus. Let's see how we amp up our love for Him in this session together.**

**ICE BREAKER**

1. Have you ever done an "over the top" demonstration of love for someone or anything in your life? What was it?

**GOING DEEPER**

1. Read John 12:1-3

**"Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume."**

- a. Mary stunned the dinner party with her pouring perfume on Jesus' feet and then wiping the perfume off with her hair. What in your opinion would cause a woman to do such a beautiful and intimate thing?

2. Building love for Jesus in your life begins with growing in thankfulness to Him for all He is and has done for you! Look at the following statements and questions and discuss and comment on each one.

**1. Building love for Jesus begins with gratitude & praise for Who He is.**

a. Discuss the many things there are to LOVE about Jesus.

**2. Love for Him grows as we are Thankful for what He has done!**

a. What has Jesus done for you that makes you thankful?

b. What does it mean to you that you have been forgiven of your sins?

c. What does it mean to you that Jesus provides a home in heaven for you after this life is over on earth?

d. How significant is it that we will see our believing relatives and friends again in eternity because of Jesus?

e. What degree of thanks for Jesus do you have because He offered you salvation for your soul?

f. What other things can you think of that make you thankful for Jesus?

3. There is another way love for Jesus can grow in us. We can join Him in His mission of ministering to and reach out to lost & hurting people. What ways can you see your love growing for Jesus in the following scenarios:

a. Praying for the people around you that you know need Jesus but you see their lifestyles and indifference to Him. **(Read Luke 19:41-42)**

- b. When you go out of your way to help a friend or neighbor in need when you could be out having fun or resting or doing chores at your house. **(Read Phil. 2:3-4)**
  
  - c. We pray for a friend or neighbor in need but nothing happens. We keep asking God for a change in their lives but it doesn't seem to be in the future. But, we keep on praying and don't give up. **(Read Luke 18:1-8)**
4. We grow in love for Him when we begin to look up and really see the condition of the world around us and it breaks our hearts. Look at John 4:34-38 below and discuss what that means for us right now.

**John 4:34 Then Jesus explained: “My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work. 35 You know the saying, ‘Four months between planting and harvest.’ But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest. 36 The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike! 37 You know the saying, ‘One plants and another harvests.’ And it’s true. 38 I sent you to harvest where you didn’t plant; others had already done the work, and now you will get to gather the harvest.”**